



News from Oman

(Dhofar Letter)

No. 31 NOVEMBER 1978

PFLO : The Slogan about Arab Reconciliation is Today 100% Reactionary

Following a longer period, where the Omani Revolution has "healed its wounds in revolutionary silence", the Central Executive Committee of the PFLO has issued an important statement on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the 9th June Revolution.

It is a comprehensive review and analysis of the situation of the revolution today, discussing such topics as: the national problem of Oman, the temporary military setback of the revolution, its rebuilding, the future forms of struggle and the perspectives for the revolution, as well as evaluate the situation in the whole Gulf-area and the lines of direction for the revolutionary struggles here.

Below we have tried to present the main points in the statement by means of quotations, and to a lesser extent summaries (to a limited extent we have tried to improve the English of the statement).

First the PFLO describes the situation in Oman. About the national problem:

"Here the revolution enters its 14th year while "Oman" the sultanate is still occupied and lies under the weight of a number of foreign British, Iranian and American bases, and the Shah's invasion forces are still keeping the areas occupied by them, and the treaties of subordination and the harsh agreements concluded with Britain, Iran and America are still valid between these countries and the puppet Muscat regime, and the British commanders and advisers are still occupying sensitive positions in the country-military and civilian- and the British Ambassador in the capital Muscat is still the real sultan and the real ruler and not Qaboos who is noting but the facade and tool."

The reforms of Qaboos, are evaluated like this:

" The British and their puppet Qaboos have ever since 1970 upto this day carried out a collection of administrative, economic and social reforms with the aim of winning the Omani people to their side, and blocking the road in front of the development of the revolution. But they did not introduce anything at all on the road of solving the national issue of Oman and realising its freedom and independence. But alternatively, side by side with their administrative, economic and social reforms of limited size, they have deepened the national problem further and further and added new chains and new catastrophes to the freedom of Oman and its independence, and the safety of its territories. "

As examples the statement mentions the Iranian annexation of 3 strategic important Omani islands in the Straits of Hormuz, the Iranian army of invasion, and the handing over of the important base on the island of Masirah to the USA, who will build huge military installations on the island, threatening the security of the whole area.

The statement continues about the reforms:

" Today, and after the elapse of eight years since the start of the British and Qabosite reformatory programmes, it becomes clear strongly and plainly and year after year the extent of great imagination in which the British, Qaboosites and their allies have fallen in through their plans and programmes in Oman. The passing days reveal with more clarity the extent of the weakness of the reformatory programmes and the inability of these programmes to solve the real problems from which the sweeping majority of the poor and toilers of the Omani people including workers, peasants, fishermen and shepherds as well as students, women and youth suffer. With the exception of the collection of schools and hospitals the real beneficiary from the entire other reforms are the foreigners, the puppet al-Busaid family, the major merchants and landlords. "

In the economic field, the situation is evaluated like this:

" The opening widely of the doors of Oman in front of the world monopolies, and the American, British, French, Japanese, South Korean, and Iranian multi-national foreign companies in the field of agriculture, fish wealth and animal wealth in addition to the oil, copper, and other minerals, has placed the wealths of the country for condensed imperialist robbery and looting and added new problems and catastrophes to the life of the

Omani peasants, workers, fishermen and shepherds as a result of deadly competition, inconvenience and confiscation and exploitation of fertile agricultural lands and fish resorts and exploitation in all forms. In addition the strength of repression and terrorism increases further and further and escalates along with confiscation of the simplest public and individual freedoms. The detective and fascist nature of the regime also increases and escalates. "

On the strategy of the British and Qaboos:

" They have impressed themselves that our Omani people will abandon to them their right to independence and freedom in return for obtaining and getting administrative, economic and social reforms. "

" They have completely ignored that the Omani people have carried out the revolution in the first place for freedom and independence, and that the people cannot accept anything else than freedom and independence, and that freedom is the dearest and first and basic demand amongst all demands for which this people fought and still fights ever since 1965 upto this day. "

The conditions which caused the revolution, remains in main unchanged, and therefore the revolution has to continue. In the following the PFLO analyses the various aspects of the revolution. First they speak about the ability and will of the people to continue the revolution:

" Our militant people and its armed revolution under the leadership of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman have incurred, during the past thirteen years, thousands of martyrs, detainees and prisoners most of whom are still in the prisons upto now, and many of these prisoners have been martyred under torture and death sentences. Villages, rural areas, farms and grazing places of the people, particularly in the southern region of the homeland, were subject to collective annihilation and extermination raids and burning and extensive destruction. Yet our people demonstrated that they can greatly tolerate and shoulder such acts for the sake of waging the revolutionary war and facing the highly developed weapons of destruction of the imperialists and the Iranian invaders and their puppet the Muscat regime, and to incur many sacrifices and make great efforts on the different fronts of confrontation, making by that a wonderful, huge revolutionary experiment for the whole national movement in the entire Arabian Gulf and Peninsula. Our people are still marching on its combative road with firmness fully determined to develop this revolutionary experiment until it is crowned with final victory. "

Then follows a review of the background for the military set-back in 1975/76:

" The strategic position of Oman, which controls the entrance into the Arabian Gulf, and the danger of the Omani revolution to all huge oil interests of imperialism in this area, pushed the American and British imperialists in this area and their local puppets to mobilise huge potentialities, weapons and forces for the war against the Omani revolution and the Omani people, and to launch an extensive and fierce annihilation war against the peaceful and militant people, which is fighting for its legitimate rights. Such acts in addition to a number of mistakes and shortcomings on the side of the Front at the political, military or organisational level and on the tactical level led to a noticeable progress in the side of the enemies in the conflict, and to the realisation of important military gains in their favour, which were resembled in the outcome of the extensive military campaign in the Western area of the Dhofar Region at the end of 1975 and beginning of 1976. "

Qaboos of course took advantage of the set-back and represents it as the final defeat of the revolution and starts a diplomatic offensive to break the isolation of Oman. But still he tries to reach a political solution with the revolution. The statement says about this:

" The puppet Muscat regime and its masters realise thoroughly well that the revolution is still continuing and is still constituting a danger to their presence. Therefore, their dreams and efforts about reaching a political solution with the revolution that clears its presence from the foundation did not stop. They have imagined and particularly after the failure of the efforts of the Arab League and the Arab mediation committee during the years of 1974-1975 that, by weakening the revolution militarily, they will realise their objective to reach a political settlement with it in return for giving it some ministerial positions and posts. They moved and still move their allies from the oil countries towards this direction which proves in fact and remarkably their firm belief and feeling that the revolution is still continuing and still constitutes real danger to them and their interests. "

This proves that Qaboos in reality shares the analysis of the PFLO that the military set-back is only temporarily. To enable the PFLO to revive the fightings on a larger scale it is necessary to sum up the experiences of the set-back and rebuild the organization. The statement says:

" The interim military setback at the end of 1975 and beginning of 1976, have had in addition to its clear interim negative effects, also positive effects: it was an alarm for us and a valuable occasion for standing in front of the past years of the combative experiment and for studying that experiment and extracting the valuable lessons from it positively and negatively with the scope of revolutionary scientific criticism. "

The results of the rebuilding are described like this:

" The period of one a half years for rebuilding our own revolutionary conditions has realised remarkable successes and accomplishments at the level of promoting the political, military, organisational and ideological conditions of the front. "

About the future forms of struggle the PFLO says:

" We have cut an important distance on the road of completing the essential conditions for escalating the confrontation anew between us and the enemies of the people, at all levels and in all fronts and with all combative forms, " and "...the development of the struggle will this time be more decisively, comprehensive, varied, organised, firm and fierce, " and "...while we heal our wounds in revolutionary silence, we are at the same time continuing to wage the struggles with their various forms including the armed struggle and we are still believing and firmly feeling that the organised revolutionary violence in spite of all its huge hardships, is our basic and correct and effective means for realising our ambitions and making our people get rid of their enemies and expel the British, Iranians and Americans from Oman, and we are still determined as we have been but even more to wage the struggle in all its forms topped by the armed struggle for the establishment of a free, independent and democratic Oman. "

The perspectives for the struggle are evaluated by the PFLO on the background of the complicated and sensitive conditions in the area. The importance of the area is not just due to Oman, but to the fact that it is situated close to the Gulf area. The more the energy crises escalates, the more important this area becomes for the imperialists, the PFLO says. This is the reason behind the open and often repeated US statements about the incorporation of this area into the defence strategy of the US, which is considered by the PFLO as open interference in the internal matters of the area. On this background, the statement discuss the perspectives of the struggle:

"We do not expect at all that the imperialists and their ally the Shah regime would leave Oman to its people through short-term struggles or confrontations, but we have for this to get ready and make thorough preparations for waging a comprehensive, long, fierce and tough confrontation. A confrontation of such type will be imposed upon us certainly by the imperialists and reactionaries, and we must be in full preparedness to wage it with braveness and firmness, depending in the first place upon the creative forces and vast energies of our people with all its classes and national and democratic groups, and also upon the valuable lessons obtained from the experiment of the past years, and also upon the justness of our cause and the soundness and firmness of the political line of the revolution, and also upon the great support and backing and solidarity from the groups of the revolution at both Arab and international levels and the supporters of freedom, independence, democracy and peace in the world. In accordance with the struggle on this line and with this attitude, our confidence and the confidence of our people is high over the certainty of victory and over the future. A confidence which is more firm and consolidate today than any time before, no matter how great is the size of the sacrifices and difficulties and hardships awaiting us on the road. "

The forms and perspectives of the struggle must be seen in connection with the approaching imperialist offensive. The statement reviews the first signs of this offensive:

" The Omani revolution is today facing difficult political circumstances, which perhaps is more difficult than any it has faced before. On one hand calls are renewed and increased along with contacts and activities for bringing out the project for the so-called Gulf security, which project is being planned by the United States of America, and the call for it and its execution are being adopted by its tools and major allies in the area in a bid to encircle and liquidate the national movement in the entire area of Oman and the Gulf and in Iran and the Peninsula and to protect the huge oil interests of imperialism in this area. The national movement, including the revolution of our people, is facing now coordination at the level of internal security amidst all reactionary countries overlooking the Gulf as a first practical step on the road of bringing out the imperialist Gulf security project. The revolution of our Omani people under the leadership of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman comes undoubtedly in the forefront of the national movement aimed at behind such suspected moves and

coordinations. On the other hand there is an increase at this period of political manouvres and pressures of various forms, for reducing the isolation around the puppet regime in Muscat and giving it further international legitimacy along with the Iranian invasion of our country and the British and American foreign presence. If all these conspiratorial pressures of heavy and numerous nature succeeded in affecting the allies of the Omani revolution in the area or even some or one of them, it would undoubtedly harm the Omani revolution and its people and militants in one of the most delicate stages being passed, and would push the Omani revolution and the entire national movement in the area steps backward, and would extend an outstanding and invaluable service to the imperialist-reactionary plan in the area and the Shah-in-Shah expansionist greeds in the area. "

Seen on the background of the above description of the situation today, the PFLO put forward the following guide-line for the Arab nationalist movement:

"Any form of submission at present, in front of the imperialist-reactionary offensive in the area, will inevitable lead to more and further imperialist-reactionary offensives with greater pressures and more fieriness. In the face of the American-Israeli-Sadat plan for liquidating the Palestinian issue and the American-reactionary plan against the groups of the revolutionary movement in the Gulf and the entire Arabian Peninsula, there is no other possibility for the groups of the Arab revolution, than to pile up their ranks more than any time before and to create superior and superb forms of coordination, solidarity and cohesion between them continuously, and to establish a progressive national front in every area of the Arab arena prior to the establishment of the Arab progressive national front, and to place under consideration especially at this circumstance that the best means for defence is the attack and not retreat or demonstration of any sign of weakness. The slogan of Arab solidarity and Arab reconciliation is now a reactionary slogan one hundred per cent and does not serve but the interest of the reactionaries and their imperialist masters, and cannot lead to anything except the come-back of reactionary hegemony and control over the total Arab political conditions. "

At the end of the statement, PFLO extends its greetings to all national and democratic movements in Africa, Latinamerica and Asia, and to all peoples, countries, groups and individuals, who supports freedom, independence, justice and progress and peace in the world.

PFLO affirms to the Omani people, the comradly Yemeni people, the masses of the Arab nation, and friends and allies all over the world, that the revolution will continue until victory no matter how great the difficulties.

PFLO declares its solidarity with the progressive regime in PDRY and promises to fight alongside the Yemenis against all imperialist conspiracies against the Yemeni revolution. PFLO expresses its solidarity with the armed Palestinian revolution for its steadfastness against the American-Israeli-Sadat liquidatory plan, and declares its solidarity with the Lebanese nationalist movement which is closely linked to the Palestinian revolution.

PFLO greets the national and democratic movement on the Arab Peninsula, in the Gulf and in the northern part of Yemen.

PFLO declares that they stand side by side with the national movement in Egypt struggling against the reactionary regime of the puppet Sadat, and with the revolutionary movement in Iran whose heroic struggle against the Shah no doubt soon will succeed.

Further the PFLO expresses its solidarity with the Eritrean revolution and the Ethiopian revolution and calls for a peaceful democratic solution between the two revolutions on the basis of self-determination for the people of Eritrea. The blood which is shed in the struggles between the two revolutions only serves the common enemy of the two revolutions and the two peoples, and serves the imperialist-reactionary conspiracy.

The new progressive regime in Afghanistan is greeted.

The national Arab regimes Libya, Iraq, Algeria and Syria, as well as the friendly socialist countries are greeted for the support and solidarity they have extended to the struggle of the Omani people.

PFLO expresses its solidarity with the democratic and national movements in Africa, Latin America and Asia in their struggle against new and old forms of colonialism and US conspiracies.

"Long live the 13th anniversary of the glorious 9th June revolution. Let the just struggle for a free and independent, democratic and united Oman achieve victory. "

(For those who are especially interested, we can supply a photocopy of the full statement (11 pages), if you send us the amount of 10 Danish kroner, 1 £, or 2 US \$ by cheque, giro, or International Postal Money Order).

CHINA RECOGNIZE THE PUPPET REGIME IN MUSCAT

On the 25'th May 1978 the government of the People's Republic of China recognized the puppet regime in Muscat. An excerpt from the joint communique announce: " The government of the People's Republic of China firmly supports the government of the Sultanate of Oman in its just cause of safeguarding national independence and developing the national economy. " (Hsinhua 26'th May 1978). Late in June Qais Abdul Munin al-Zawauis, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, was on official visit in Peking. At the banquet in honour of Zawauis, the Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua said: " The Omani Government and people have in recent years made unremitting efforts under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and achieved gratifying results in safeguarding state sovereignty, protecting national resources and developing the national economy and culture. In international affairs, Oman pursues a policy of neutrality and non-alignment, supports the Arab and Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation, stands for unity and co-operation among the Gulf and Red Sea States, and opposes superpower interference in the affairs of the countries in this region, thus making its contributions to the united struggle of the Arab and Third World countries against hegemonism.. " (Summary of World Broadcasts 29.6.78).

In return, the Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua is scheduled to visit Muscat in the near future (Events 28.7.78).

On the Chinese role in the Middle East Qaboos, in an interview with Far Eastern Economic Review (28.7.78), says: " they like to have friends in this part of the world and they want peace.

On these things we find ourselves thinking the same. We are part of the same Third World with which China wants to make friends. " A statement issued by PFLO on this development says: " The recognition by People's China of the puppet Muscat regime, which does not constitute but one of the cartoonist facades of neo and old colonialism in the area, due to its link with the wheel of colonialism through protection treaties which are still valid upto this moment, does not mean but fundamental endorsement of those enslavement treaties imposed upon our people by force and denial of the principle pertaining to the right of our people to determine their destiny and its armed popular revolution, of which we are celebrating today the thirteenth anniversary.

Such a stand by China, only pours water into the mill of the forces of imperialism and reaction and contravenes with the principles of the great Chinese revolution. It also contravenes with the interests of the Omani people and the entire national movement in the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula. (Statement by an official

spokesman of the PFLO on recognition by Peoples China of the Muscat regime - undated, but approximately June 1978).

CAMP DAVID

The final statement issued by the third summit conference of the states of the pan-Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation, which was held in Damascus and attended by Syria, Algeria, Libya, PDRY and PLO, rejects the Camp David agreements. The conference evaluates the results of the Camp David agreements as an extension of the US-Israeli plotting against the Arab nation, the Palestine issue and the rights of the Palestinian people. In addition the conference believes that the resolutions issued by the Arab League Council on the PDRY are illegal, and expresses its profound concern over the foreign military presence in Oman. The conference asserts its support for the Omani people in their struggle for liberation and national sovereignty. (SWB 25.9.78). A statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry on the Camp David results does not consider the agreements completely negative and says, that specific aspects of the agreement represent tangible progress. The statement praises the efforts exerted by Carter and points out that the peace initiative which Sadat embarked on last November was the basis for the achievement of the progress that made the convening of the Camp David summit possible. (SWB 27.9.78).

PFLO MILITARY COMMUNIQUE

On the 15th May 1978, a small fighting group of the Peoples Army set up an ambush for a British officer who was driving his Land-rover on the road near the Red Line, north of Salalah. The British officer was killed in his vehicle. (Aden Voice of Oman Revolution, cited in SWB 13.6.78).

On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the 9th June revolution, a group from the forces of the Peoples Liberation Army operating in the eastern zone of the southern region of Oman, Dhofar, carried out on the evening of 1st June, 1978, an attack on a bus belonging to the so-called Sultan's Air Force which had stopped east of the town of Taqah which is east of Salalah town. The operation lasted 20 minutes, and the results were as follows: 1) The killing of six British officers working in the Tamrit and Salalah air bases, and the taking from their bodies identity cards which indicate their places of work and their nationality 2) The destruction of the bus belonging to the so-called Ministry of Defence. The bus bore the emblem of the air-

Force. 3) The seizure of photographic apparatus with films, a compass and other military equipment. The group returned to its base safely. Following this operation, the enemy moved large numbers of his forces to the place where the incident took place and to the neighbouring areas. Vehicles and citizens were not allowed to leave the town of Taqah for two days. The enemy used violent methods against the citizens, but this is what he normally does following any daring operation carried out by our heroic revolutionaries.(ibid).

On 7th June (July?) 1978, a group of our armed forces in the in the central zone of the southern region set up an ambush along the Red Line road. At 1950 hours an enemy military convoy arrived from the north, moving towards the south coast. As it entered the ambush area, the group fired on it using machine-guns and rockets. Our forces had complete control over the battle field and gave the enemy no chance to escape throughout the battle, which lasted for 25 minutes. Enemy losses in this battle were as follows: 28 killed or wounded; two 75-mm guns destroyed; six vehicles, including that of the commander of the convoy, completely destroyed - the commander's vehicle was of the Landrover type and was carrying wireless equipment. The commander himself was killed.

Our comrades returned safely to their base. Soon after this battle, the enemy declared a state of full alert among his regular and tribal forces. On the following day, the enemy forces mounted a hysterical attack on the area extending from the Red Line to the Ho Chi Minh trail, using helicopters and fighter aircraft, for a full week. During this campaign, the enemy employed the most base methods of threats and terror and torture against our people in this region. However the enemy failed to achieve his objectives. (Saut al-Thawra, No. 16-19, June-July 1978 and SWB 24.7.78).

On 30th July 1978, at nine at night the engineering group of the forces of the People's Liberation Army operating in the Eastern sector of the Dhofar region blasted 4 enemy vehicles near the road junction west of the enemy centre at Jubjat. The 4 vehicles very destroyed completely and our forces returned to base safely. (Saut al-Thawra, No 20, August 1978)

NEWS FROM THE SOLIDARITY WORK (May - September 1978)

The summer camp of the Danish Emmaus was very succesfull. The surplus was 100.000 Danish Kroner(app. 20.000 \$). 60% of the surplus will be used for purchasing medicine to the ORC hospital in AlGheida, while the rest of the money and the collected clothes

will be used to support ZANU. During the camp the participants studied the situation in Oman and Zimbabwe and watched slides and films. The Copenhagen branch of the Danish Emmaus have just started continuous fleamarked activities. It has been decided to support PFLO with the money and give the clothes to ZANU. The Fleamarked Group International Solidarity held a fleamarked in September, with a turn-over on 33.000 Dkr.(app. 6.500 \$). This will be the last fleamarked of the group, as it has lost its rooms. The group has been working for 1½ year, and in this periode it has had a total turn-over on 218.000 Dkr.(app. 43.000 \$), of which app. 2/3 has been surplus for the PFLO. Emmaus Fnysinge held a 2 weeks camp in June, doing practical work and studying the situation in the Gulf-area. There was not kept a special account for the camp, as the results goes into the annual account of Emmaus Fnysinge. The annual report of Emmaus Fnysinge for 1977 has been published in the Swedish edition of News from Oman (Oman Brev, No. 3-4, June 1978). The report gives a good idea of the work of the group: practical work, the support(money to PFLO and clothes to ZANU), information work and studies. In the end of the report is the annual account which shows a turn-over of 282.000 Swedish Kroner(app. 76.600 \$), of which the surplus for PFLO was 167.000 Skr.(app. 45.500 \$). The work is carried out by 3-4 persons, who work full time with solidarity work and therefore are paid a subsistence salary(300 Skr. a month + food and lodging). Emmaus Fnysinge want to get in contact with people who will participate in their work in support of the anti-imperialist struggle. For further informations, write to Emmaus Fnysinge, S 190 70 Fjärdhundra, Sweden. Shipments: 2 large shipments of medicine paid by the Danish Emmaus, have just been send, and further there has in the periode been some smaller shipments of generator spare parts and hospital chemicals paid by the Danish Emmaus and the Fleamarked Group International Solidarity. The Gulf Committee in London has been dissolved. The Gulf Committee has played a very important role in the promotion of the PFLO-solidarity work in the Western world, especially be producing a considerable amount of information material(books, pamphlets, magazines) which the other solidarity committees have relied on. The event is very regrettable, as the need for informations on the revolutionary movement in the Gulf-area(from other that imperialist sources) not have diminished.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS FROM OMAN (Dhofar Letter): Published 6-8 times a year, each issue usually 8-16 pages. Airmailsubscription all over the world costs 35 Danish Kroner/6 \$/3 £. Payment by check, International Postal Money Order or by International Giro(Danish giro No 4 22 91 26) to KROAG, Box 86, DK-1003 Copenhagen K, Denmark.